

Already seniors spend 21 percent of their income on health care costs. In 1994, the average older American spent \$2,500 for health care costs not covered by Medicare. Those over 75 pay even more, and these numbers don't even include the cost of long-term nursing home care, which averages nearly \$40,000 per year.

The portion of the cuts which do not fall on beneficiaries directly will be borne by the doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers who deliver Medicare services. Because of this, I am concerned that the proposed level of cuts could create a quality gap between Medicare and the rest of the health system.

In effect, these cuts could create a second class health care system for the elderly on Medicare. Even now, Medicare reimburses health care providers at only 68 percent of the amount health providers get from private payors.

Another serious consequence of this budget plan on seniors is the substantial, \$182 billion cut in projected spending on Medicaid. On top of new Medicare costs, Medicaid cuts could force hundreds of thousands of middle class seniors and their families to assume the burden of nursing home costs as well.

IMPACT ON HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Cuts of this magnitude could have devastating consequences for our health care system, particularly in rural areas.

These cuts would take \$537 million out of North Dakota over the next 7 years. That's \$5,213 per Medicare beneficiary in North Dakota.

According to the North Dakota Hospital Association, as many as 12 to 20 rural hospitals in North Dakota are in danger of being shut down by these cuts. Rural hospitals rely heavily on Medicare patients, and many are already in very precarious financial condition. Other rural health care providers are similarly dependent on Medicare patients for their livelihood. These cuts will make access to health care even more of a problem for all North Dakotans living in those areas.

Teaching hospitals are also in jeopardy. We need teaching hospitals to educate our health care professionals and to conduct invaluable medical research which saves lives.

Another concern I have is that cuts of this magnitude cannot be absorbed within the Medicare system alone and that health care providers will have no choice but to shift their uncompensated costs onto their other patients in the form of higher fees. This means higher medical bills and higher health insurance costs for the rest of the population.

MEDICARE COST GROWTH

Are Medicare costs growing too fast? Do Medicare costs need to be brought under control? Yes, absolutely.

Medicare Program costs are growing at a little over 10 percent per year. But roughly one-half of this growth is caused by the increasing number of

seniors in our country who become eligible for Medicare each month and the increased utilization of health care services that results from people living longer.

This year, 37 million Americans are covered by the Medicare Program. Every month over 200,000 older Americans enroll in Medicare for the first time. Just within the time frame of this budget, Medicare will cover 3.7 million more people than it does today.

A better measure of Medicare cost growth is to look at per person costs. Currently the cost of health care per person is increasing in Medicare at about the same rate it is increasing in the private sector—roughly 7.6 percent per year. The budget cuts would limit per person Medicare growth to 4.9 percent, while the private sector health care would stay at 7.6 percent.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE

I believe it is possible to balance the budget and protect Medicare at the same time. But it will take the new leadership in Congress compromising on their tax cuts and being straight about the Medicare Trust Fund. It will also mean that Democrats must acknowledge that the current growth in Medicare spending is not sustainable and must be slowed.

We know that the amount needed to save the trust fund is \$89 billion, not the \$270 billion cut in the budget plan. This level of savings is achievable without any new increases in costs for beneficiaries and without hurting our world class health care system.

The first thing we must do is crack down on the waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare system. The General Accounting Office has found that as much as 10 cents of every dollar spent by Medicare goes to fraud and abuse. I regularly get letters from my constituents in North Dakota describing the wasteful duplication of services and paperwork that occur under Medicare. I have cosponsored legislation to address this problem once and for all.

We must also modernize Medicare so that it has the same management tools as the private sector to control costs. Case management services, for example, can improve the coordination and quality of care for beneficiaries and save money for Medicare at the same time. New computer technology can help prevent Medicare from making duplicative or improper payments. Adopting a single claims form for providers can cut down on paperwork.

I believe Medicare must also place greater emphasis on preventive care. Only a fraction of beneficiaries take advantage of the mammogram and flu shots covered by Medicare. We should improve these benefits and take steps to promote their use.

Removing barriers to practice for qualified non-physician providers will help Medicare save money and also help bring needed caregivers into more of rural North Dakota.

Finally, modest reductions in the rate of growth of Medicare spending—

only what's needed to reach \$89 billion—will ensure that Medicare remains solvent while protecting benefits so that Medicare remains a program worth saving.

With a little good faith all around, I am hopeful Congress can pass this kind of a plan later this year. It may take a Presidential veto before we get there, but I believe we can provide the fiscal discipline the American people want from the Federal Government without sacrificing the health security that they deserve.●

SECOND MUNICIPAL LEADERS' SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the municipal leaders' communique which was produced at the Second Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change. It is important for our Nation to be made aware of the problems and progress in the climate research and air quality fields. I ask that this communique be printed in today's RECORD.

The communique follows:

ARTICLE I—Local Authorities' Commitments to Climate Protection

1.1 We, the participants at the Second Municipal Leaders' Summit on Climate Change, urge local authorities, especially those in industrialized nations, who have not yet undertaken climate protection activities to:

(a) endeavor to reduce CO₂ emissions by at least 20% from 1990 levels by 2005;

(b) develop a local action plan to reduce urban level emissions of greenhouse gases and protect carbon sinks, which could include protecting and establishing municipal forests, managing urban growth, establishing sustainable transportation modes, reducing the procurement of tropical wood, etc.;

(c) set a target for emissions reduction appropriate to local municipal capacity and circumstances;

(d) undertake to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in the municipality's own operations, including building, facilities, vehicle fleets, and employee travel;

(e) undertake initiatives to change public attitudes and behavior to reduce energy consumption energy use;

(f) promote the advancement of renewable energy sources: hydro-energy, solar energy, wind energy, geothermal energy, biogas, biomass, as the only sustainable alternative forms of energy, noting that existing nuclear technology is not an appropriate alternative to fossil fuels.

Specific target dates for the above activities will be established by ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection Campaign.

1.2 We urge local authorities in non-industrialized countries and countries in transition to strive to break the link between economic growth and energy consumption and, instead of imitating the path taken by industrialized nations, to take the wiser course and actively promote and give priority to renewable energy sources such as solar power and to newly emerging energy-efficient technologies. Energy efficiency will also enable the freeing up of financial resources for the economic and social development of these communities in a more sustainable manner.

ARTICLE II—COMMUNICATION TO NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

2.1 We urge national governments and their utilities to accord local authorities

greater powers, responsibilities and resources to enhance their capacity to reduce local energy use and thus reduce net greenhouse gas emissions.

2.2 We urge national governments to include local participation in the formulation of their national climate action plans and to enable local authorities by providing adequate training and financial resources, for example, by creating a dedicated fund to finance national and municipal climate protection efforts.

2.3 We urge national governments to give priority in their public infrastructure investments to local projects that reduce energy use, save money, improve air quality, create jobs, mitigate poverty, stimulate the local economy, and make communities more liveable.

2.4 We urge national governments to be innovative in their application of regulatory, tax, and other economic instruments to help adjust public and private sector behaviour in order to reduce fossil fuel consumption, protect and restore forests, and encourage the use of renewable energy sources.

ARTICLE III—COMMUNICATION TO THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES

(A) RECOGNITION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS A DISTINCT SECTOR

3.1 For the critical purposes of implementing the Framework Convention on Climate Change, we urge the Conference of the Parties (COP) to recognise that local authorities around the world are strategic partners with national governments in climate protection by recognising that the municipal sector is distinct from other sectors.

(B) LOCAL AUTHORITY'S INPUT INTO THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES

3.2 We urge the COP to establish consultative processes within the Subsidiary Bodies, pursuant to Articles 9 and 10 of the Framework Convention, which permit and encourage local authorities as a sector to advise the Subsidiary Bodies with respect to scientific and technical matters, as well as to implementation of the Convention.

3.3 We urge the COP to endorse the establishment of a Local Authority Climate Assembly to facilitate municipal advice to the COP on scientific, technical, and implementation matters subject to Articles 9 and 10.

3.4 We urge the COP to include local authority representation on all general advisory committees established to advise the Subsidiary Bodies.

(C) GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS IN ANNEX 1 PARTIES

3.5 We urge the COP to endorse and implement the "Draft Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction," proposed by Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). Key provisions of the draft protocol propose that Annex 1 Parties shall:

(a) Reduce their 1990 level of anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide by at least 20% by the year 2005.

(b) Adopt specific targets and timetables to limit or reduce other greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, including targets and timetables for methane, nitrous oxides and fluorocarbons.

(c) Stimulate the use of green, renewable sources of energy.

3.6 We urge the COP to give due recognition to local authorities that undertake to reduce their emissions by 20% or more, by endorsing the goals of the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, which is urging cities to adopt a 20% reduction target as a minimum, and by facilitating appropriate UN-sponsored recognition events and activities.

(D) GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS IN NON-ANNEX 1 PARTIES

3.7 We urge the COP and other UN agencies to recognise the important role that local authorities in both Annex 1¹ and non-Annex Parties can play in contributing to greenhouse-gas reduction through municipal policy exchanges, technology transfer, and promotion of new technologies.

3.8 We urge the COP and other UN agencies to facilitate this crucial partnership and help build local capacity for reducing greenhouse-gas emissions by ensuring that local authorities in developing countries and countries in transition have access to scientific findings, technology, programs and funding that will be available for the implementation of the goals set out in the Framework Convention on Climate Change—through their respective national governments where appropriate—with the aim of building local capacity in the area of methodologies and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Second Municipal Leaders' Summit on Climate Change, Berlin, Germany, 29 March 1995.●

J.P. MCCARTHY

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on August 16, Michigan, and America, lost a friend and companion from their airwaves. J.P. McCarthy, whose gentle questions and quiet concerns made the radio sparkle for millions of listeners in Detroit and surrounding communities, passed away from pneumonia brought on by a rare blood disease.

J.P. McCarthy interviewed Governors, legislators, businessmen, and even cardinals over the years, and became friends with almost all of them. He asked probing questions with a sincerity and a keen sense of civility that produced straight answers and more than a little enlightenment. He made our lives richer through his work.

And his work was not done merely on the radio. J.P. generously gave of his time and effort for numerous charities in and around his hometown. Many was the time when he would stay up late at a fundraiser, knowing full well that he would have to get up before 5 a.m. the next morning so that he could be on the air.

But, full as has schedule was, J.P. never neglected his family. After work he would return home for lunch with his wife, Judy, even when he could have been hob-knobbing with the rich and famous. That was the kind of man he was: devoted to family and friends, always certain of where his priorities should lay.

Cardinal Adam Maida, the archbishop of Detroit, told those of us at J.P.'s funeral that perhaps the strongest influence on his friend's life was his faith. After his last meeting with J.P., Cardinal Maida in his own words "knew he

was a man who was at peace with God."

May all who knew and loved J.P. McCarthy be consoled by the knowledge that he is at peace with God, and may we remember the warmth and enlightenment this kind and giving man provided us all.●

THIS IS V-J DAY

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, over the last 4 years, much has already been said and done to pay tribute to our Nation's veterans of World War II. However, because this tribute is so special, I come forward today to bring to the attention of this body the late Judge Maurice Sapienza's poem, "This is V-J Day."

The late Judge Sapienza was born on October 10, 1915, and died on April 6, 1991. A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, Judge Sapienza was not only a distinguished legal scholar, but a noted poet who edited several anthologies of verse. Judge Sapienza composed "This is V-J Day" in 1945, and dedicated it to the memory of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It was read over the radio on September 2, 1945, and subsequently published.

As we come to the end of the period of commemorating the 50th anniversary of World War II, I think it is very appropriate for this body to contemplate Judge Sapienza's moving words. Therefore, I ask that Judge Sapienza's poem be printed in the RECORD.

The poem follows:

THIS IS V-J DAY (By Maurice Sapienza)

LISTEN:

This is the voice of your country:
I am the United States of America.
From my infancy up to this great, victorious day,

I have been proud of my officers and men.
They have trained my strength,
They have guided my way to Victory again
And forced the Rising Sun to set.
Now never again shall I forced to rout
This treacherous enemy.

Look, do you see my ships?
Listen, do you hear my guns?
Let the world see and hear me.
I have a story to tell.

Do you remember December, 1941?
Do you remember Pearl Harbor?
Let us go back to December 6, 1941.
Almost all my ships were there
In Pearl Harbor.

They were snugly anchored
Beam to beam, stern to bow,
Proud, strong, and safe.

Safe? Yes, the Pacific was a safe sea.
There was no threat to meet.
That afternoon, my chiefs
Were somewhere. Someone said
One was playing golf.
I am not sure.

Someone said one was given a note
To alert me from attack.
But he must have known
There was no danger
For he let me slumber in my anchorage.

My men had confidence in me.
They went to parties that night.
They had a good time.
Many hosts

¹Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Community, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America.